

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING AN INEXPENSIVE DRESS FORM

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The greatest difficulty of home dressmaking is fitting one's self. This is largely overcome by having a satisfactory dress form. A form which is a perfect likeness of the figure may be made by using a knit undervest as a foundation and covering it with several layers of gummed paper. (See Fig. 1.)

As the person for whom the form is to be made must stand during the process, the dress form should be made quickly. To do this the services of two to six people are needed. It is essen-

tial to have all materials and equipment at hand and conveniently placed before beginning to make the form.

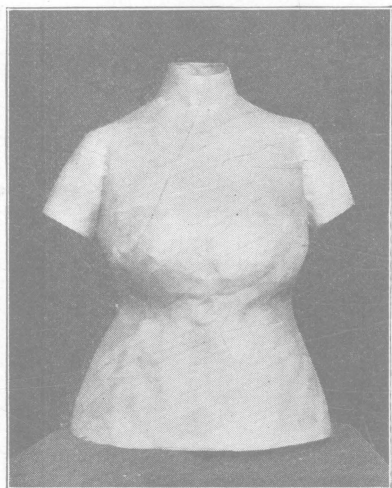


Fig. 1.—The home-made dress form

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Cheap, tight-fitting, knit undervest with high neck and short sleeves.

Material to form collar foundation. (Muslin or knit pieces from bottom of shirt or sleeves may be used.)

Large roll gummed paper $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch wide. ('50-lb.' quality is most satisfactory. This may be secured at most first-class stationery stores.)

Piece of cardboard about 18 by 24 inches.

EQUIPMENT

Water container and sponge. Pencil. Needle and thread. Scissors. Yardstick. Washbasin and towel. Tapeline.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING

1. As the dress form is to be made on the figure the model should wear comfortable shoes with heels the height she usually wears. She should remove her outer garments, see that the underclothing is smooth and well-fitting, then put on as a foundation for the dress form a tightfitting undervest with high neck and short sleeves.

2. To make it easier to remove the form when finished, cut off buttons and buttonhole strips from undervest and sew up the opening.

3. Record waist measure.

4. Cut half the roll of gummed paper into 6 to 18 inch strips with diagonal ends. Cut four longer strips to define the long lines of center front and center back and an additional long strip for the waist.

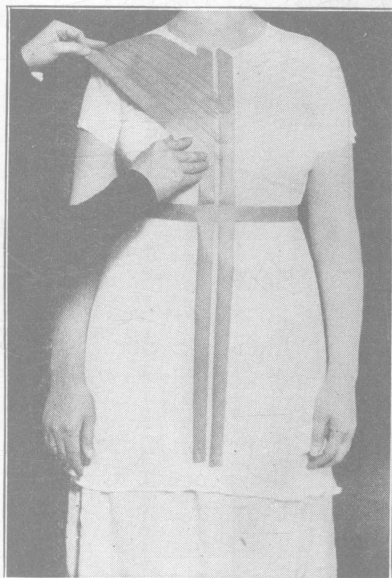


Fig. 2.—The first strips in place

5. Paste a strip of gummed paper around the waist to form a tight belt. Paste a strip vertically on each side one-eighth inch from center line of front and back (see Fig. 2). The quarter-inch spaces thus made may be left partly uncovered so that it will be possible to cut thru them easily and remove the halves of the dress form.

6. Except for these quarter-inch spaces, paste strips of gummed paper over the entire vest. When pasting the strips, let them overlap from one-half to two-thirds the width of the strip. (See Fig. 2.) Make the strips smooth and press them firmly in place. It may be necessary to clip the edges of the strips in some places to make them smooth. Extend the form to cover a small portion of the upper arm, having the model hold her arms slightly away from her sides. This may be done by bending her elbows a little and resting her hands on the lower part of the hips.

7. Add a second layer of paper, placing the strips at an angle to the first strips. Make the dress form firm enough to retain its shape by adding as many more layers as are needed.

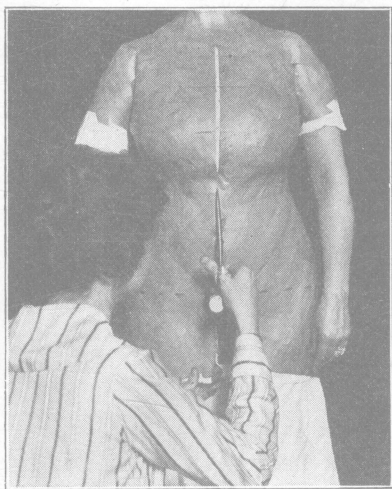


Fig. 4.—Removing form from model

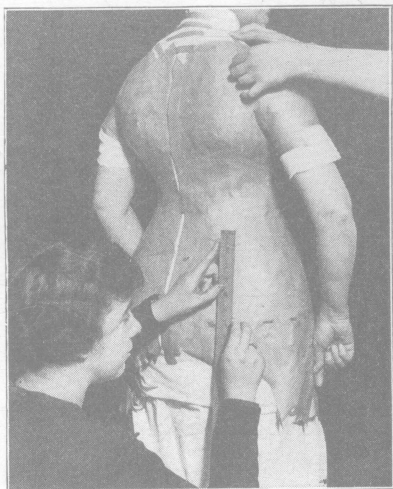


Fig. 3.—Attaching collar foundation and marking hip line

8. Unless the shirt already has a collar attached, cover the neck with a piece of material, fitting it carefully and attaching it to the form with gummed paper (Fig. 3). Cover this collar foundation with strips one-half inch wide, placing them perpendicular to the neck line. Allow them to extend one or two inches below it.

9. Mark the hip line so that it will be an equal distance from the floor all around (Fig. 3). Measure the distance from the hip line to the floor and record this measurement. Draw short lines at intervals across the center front and back as a guide for joining the halves of the form (Fig. 4).

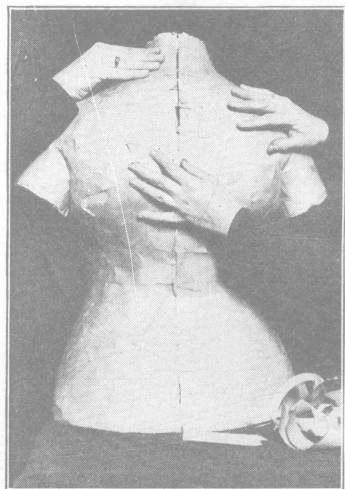


Fig 5.—Joining halves of form together

10. Cut thru the quarter-inch spaces left uncovered in the center front and back of the form (Fig. 4). Carefully remove the halves.

11. Cut along marked hip lines.

12. Hold the halves of the form up to the light to find the thin spots. Reinforce them with additional paper.

13. Measure the waist line on the halves of the form.

14. If the waist measure of the form is larger than the recorded waist measure, cut a strip equal to one-quarter of the difference from each side of the front and back.

15. With short strips of gummed paper join the halves of the form, matching them at the pencil lines (Fig. 5). Reinforce the center lines with vertical strips of gummed paper.

16. Trim the edges of the neck and arms and bind them with short strips of paper one-half inch wide (Fig. 6).

17. To make a base for the form, place it upright on the piece of cardboard and trace around the bottom of the form. Cut the cardboard on this line and fit it into the bottom of the form, trimming off the edges of the cardboard if necessary.

18. Attach the base to the form with short strips of gummed paper.

19. For use in fitting waists the form may be placed on a table. To make it convenient for fitting dresses or skirts it is necessary to mount the form on a standard. Make the standard the exact height of the distance from the hip line to the floor.

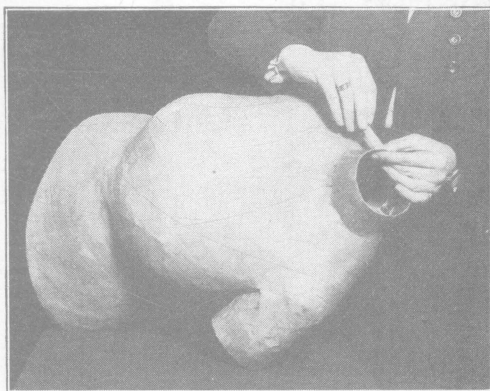


Fig. 6.—Binding the neck